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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of:

Attorney Docket No.: 3110.07US06

Kuslich et al.

Confirmation No.: 2692

Application No.: 10/812,345

Examiner: Candice Stokes

Filed: March 29, 2004

Group Art Unit: 3732

For: ANNULUS-REINFORCING BAND

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF PERIOD FOR RESPONSE
UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), an extension of time of Three (3) month(s) from April 13, 2005 to July 13, 2005 within which to respond to the Office Action dated January 13, 2005 is requested. Applicant(s) are entitled to small entity status in accordance with 37 CFR 1.27. The Commissioner is authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 16-0631 the \$510.00 extension fee and any underpayments, overpayments or additionally required fees.

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Respectfully submitted,


Wendy J. Cusick
Registration No. 52,788

Customer No. 24113
Patterson, Thuent, Skaar & Christensen, P.A.
4800 IDS Center
80 South 8th Street
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-2100
Telephone: (612) 349-3019

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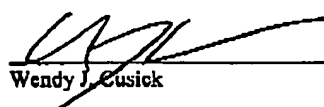
Please grant any extension of time necessary for entry; charge any fee due to Deposit Account No. 16-0631.

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper is being transmitted by facsimile to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Fax No. 703-872-9306 on the date shown below.

Date

7-13-05


Wendy J. Cusick